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REMARKS

1. Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, on the basis that the limitation reciting SEAT values equal to or greater than $257 \text{ J-m}^2/\text{Kg}$ encompasses all values that are greater than 257 and such values are not described in the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to Table 5, on P. 39 of the specification where SEAT values of 283 to $353 \text{ J-m}^2/\text{Kg}$ are described, and to Examples 10.1-10.2 on P. 28, lines 1-3, where SEAT values of 295 and $377 \text{ J-m}^2/\text{Kg}$ are disclosed. Also important to be noted is the statement on P. 28, lines 8-9, "Results indicate that grid weight percent and size need to be optimized for optimum protection against specific ballistic threat." Clearly, optimization would provide higher SEAT values than those already achieved. It is respectfully submitted that this statement provides implicit support for SEAT values greater than the $377 \text{ J-m}^2/\text{Kg}$ SEAT already attained and still greater than the claimed $257 \text{ J-m}^2/\text{Kg}$ SEAT that in itself distinguishes over the prior art.

2. Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In response thereto, claim 27 has been amended to clarify that the claimed composite is being compared to "... a composite having a substantially identical areal density and construction, except for having a continuous polymeric matrix...." It is respectfully submitted that claim 27 now points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

3. New claim 28 has been submitted. Support for this claim is found in the specification throughout and in particular on pages 27-28 and 38-39. As no new matter has been introduced, it is respectfully submitted that the claim should be admitted.

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4. In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the claims now of record, 24-27, and newly submitted claim 28, are allowable and should be passed to issue. Applicants respectfully request the same and invite the Examiner to call to discuss any unresolved issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via facsimile to Examiner Elizabeth M. Cole, Group Art Unit 1771, at 703-872-9306 on August 13, 2004.

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